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the geological date when coal was formed, if by so doing the attention of the hearer could be better gained and held, and if the problem at issue could thereby be made clearer and more serviceable. So the geographer is warranted in touching upon the composition, the origin, the exploitation of the Pennsylvania coal-beds, if by so doing he makes a more forcible presentation of his own problem ; but if he weakens the presentation of his own problem by the introduction of these unessential facts, still more if he presents these unessential facts as his prime interest, he goes too far. The point of all this is that students in many different sciences may have to consider in common certain aspects of the problems presented by the coal of Pennsylvania ; but that each student should consider Pennsylvania coal in the way that best serves his own subject. The scrutiny that I have urged would, therefore, be directed chiefly to excluding from consideration under geography the non-geographic relations of many things that various sciences have to study in common, and to bringing forward in geography all the problems that are involved in relations of the the earth and its inhabitants.

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UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY:  
BULLETIN NO. 225.

*Contributions to Economic Geology, 1903, by S. F. Emmons and  
C. W. Hays, Geologists-in-Charge.*

This *Bulletin* represents the policy of publishing early each year a condensed review of the results of the Survey's investigations of the previous year. The papers exclude all purely scientific matters, and are thus fitted to give, at the earliest date, the information which the busy practical man needs concerning the development of our mineral resources. In some cases the brief treatment is all that is required, and in others it is preliminary to more full and formal publications which are to be made later.

Among the papers in this volume is an account by A. H. Brooks of Placer Mining in Alaska in 1903. While lode-mining is developing in the Territory, six-sevenths of Alaska's mineral product for the year was from placers. There is great need of improved communications. It costs \$5 per ton to land freight from steamers at Nome. A deep-water pier is much needed, but would be difficult to construct because of the great ice-floes, which are sometimes piled to a height of 100 feet on that shore. Lode-mining is practiced in southeastern Alaska, but the Seward Peninsula is still the centre of the more important mining operations, and \$20,000,000 in value have been taken from that region since 1899, and 100 miles of ditches are in operation on the Peninsula. Beach-mining

is nearly a thing of the past; while the annual output of the Alaskan Yukon is nearly \$1,000,000.

The tin deposits of the York region are discussed by Mr. Arthur J. Collier. Stream tin was found several years ago, and lode tin was discovered in 1903. Most of the ore is cassiterite, which is said to be irregularly distributed through an area of 450 square miles, occurring in placers and in lodes. Little has been done in the way of development. All the deposits are near tide-water, and deserve to be carefully investigated.

The Cumberland Gap coal field receives notice by Mr. George H. Ashley. The field belongs to the eastern edge of the Appalachian coal-belt of Kentucky and Tennessee. It has the Cumberland Range on the southeast and the Pine Mountains on the northwest. The drainage is by the Cumberland River through Pineville Gap. The rocks containing the coals are shales and sandstones, and structurally form a flat-bottomed syncline. In Log Mountains are at least forty coal beds, thirteen of them being thick enough for working. Most of the area is not yet tapped by railways, and only recently have roads been built to Middlesboro, which lies just outside the Cumberland Gap from the Great Valley. The product about that centre runs annually from 600,000 to 1,000,000 tons. With the notices of coal, as of many other products, is included a bibliography of the various papers upon the respective subjects published by the Geological Survey. This makes the *Bulletin* a convenient summary of the Survey's operations and a useful guide to its economic literature.

A. P. B.

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## GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

### AMERICA.

A NEW HARBOUR IN PORTO RICO.—Mr. J. C. Landers, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, describes another good harbour in Porto Rico, revealed by the work of the Survey. Although every good harbour in Porto Rico has, doubtless, been long known to fishermen and local traders, the cartographers knew nothing about Ensenada Honda, Jobos, or Guayanilla until the detailed hydrographic surveys of the Coast Survey were published. The harbour now added to the list is Boqueron Bay, which has just been surveyed. It is ten miles to the south of Mayaguez, and four miles north of Cabo Rojo, the southwestern point of Porto Rico.